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A paper "On Astronomical Refraction," by Mr. Andrew Yeates, was read at the Meeting.

Among the Presents to the Society, there were presented by Mr. H. G. Bohn of York Street, Covent Garden:—

Opusculum Johannis de Sacrobusto Sphericum. Lipsiæ, 4to. *s.a.*

Ditto. Liptczk, 4to. 1499; with additional matter in manuscript.

Flores Albumasaris, Ehrhardt Ratdolt. 4to. 1495. At the end there are about 22 pages of Astrological matter, beautifully written in a monastic or court hand.

Discovery of a Companion of Sirius.

In the *Ast. Nach.*, No. 1353, Prof. Bond communicates the discovery of a Companion of *Sirius*, made on the evening of Jan. 31 by Mr. Clark, with his new object-glass of 18½ inches aperture. Prof. Bond was able to observe it with the Refractor of 15 inches, at the Observatory of Harvard College, as follows:

1862, Feb. 10,	Angle of Position	85° 15	± 1° 1
	Distance ...	10″·37	± 0″·2

when the images were tranquil, the Companion was seen distinctly enough, but on account of the atmospheric disturbances these moments are quite rare.

The Companion was seen at Paris by M. Chacornac, the 20th March, with the telescope with silvered mirror of 80 centimeters, constructed according to the plans and under the direction of M. Foucault.

It appears from the *Cosmos* of 28th March, that Dr. Peters does not accept the identity of the Companion thus discovered with that which he had calculated.

Discovery and Elements of a New Minor Planet, ㊲.

In the *Ast. Nach.*, No. 1353, Prof. Bond communicates also the discovery of this new Minor Planet, under the following circumstances. Mr. Safford having had occasion to refer to the positions of *Maia* (66), obtained by Dr. Peters at Hamilton

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College, and published in Brünnow's *Astronomical Notices*, No. 20, was surprised to find that only three of the series, namely, the places for 1861, May 9, 11, and 12, could be reconciled with the Cambridge (U.S.) observations. A reference to Mr. Hall's Ephemeris of *Maia* (*Ast. Nach.*, No. 1315), showed that the Ephemeris represented the Cambridge observations of *Maia* from April 9 to May 27, nine in number, and also the first three of those of Dr. Peters, but that it did not represent the later observations of Dr. Peters. It was at once conjectured that in the interval between May 12 and May 29, when clouds and moonlight intervened to prevent a close following of *Maia*, which was only of the 13th mag., Dr. Peters had lost its trace, and on resuming his observations had fallen on a new Planet. Mr. Safford, after obtaining corrected positions of the comparison stars of Dr. Peters, obtained the following elements,—

1861, May 29·375 Washington M.T.

$$\left.\begin{array}{lcrrr} & & {}^\circ & ' & '' \\ L &=& 213 & 3 & 24{\cdot}1 \\ \varpi &=& 329 & 22 & 16{\cdot}5 \\ \text{☊} &=& 208 & 1 & 28{\cdot}0 \end{array}\right\}\text{ Mean Equinox 1861·0}$$

$$\begin{array}{lcrrr} i &=& 5 & 23 & 16{\cdot}2 \\ \phi &=& 6 & 50 & 26{\cdot}0 \\ \mu &=& \multicolumn{3}{l}{1129''{\cdot}372} \\ \log a &=& \multicolumn{3}{l}{0{\cdot}331446} \end{array}$$

It is noticed that (72) has the least mean distance yet recognised among the Minor Planets.

RECENT PUBLICATION.

A Handbook of Descriptive and Practical Astronomy. By Geo. F. Chambers, F.R.G.S. 8vo. London, 1861.

The author remarks that his book is intended to occupy a middle position between purely elementary books on the one hand, and advanced treatises on the other hand; to be attractive to the general reader, useful to the amateur, and "handy" also as an occasional book of reference to the professional astronomer. Pains have been taken to incorporate the most recent discoveries in all branches of the science, and the Work appears to be very complete in its range of subjects; and in general to be fully entitled to take up the position claimed for it by the author. The chronological tables of Astronomers and of Discoveries in Book 9, and the tables of Eclipses, Comets, Star Catalogues, &c., contained in the Appendices, will probably be found useful for reference.

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